

# IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday 30 October 2022

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## IRTS AGM 2023

The 2023 IRTS AGM weekend will be held on April 29th and 30th next year. The venue for this special 90th AGM will be the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. Hosted by Shannon Basin Radio Club, the weekend will feature a series of short talks, the ever-popular radio rally, gala dinner, and of course, the IRTS AGM. Tickets for the gala dinner are available for purchase now priced at €35 each. A special room rate and weekend package has been negotiated for the event. Further details about all these are available on [www.sbrcl.ie/agmweekend](http://www.sbrcl.ie/agmweekend)

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## EI4GRC AGM 2022

The AGM of the Galway Radio Experimenters Club (EI4GRC) will take place on the 20th of November at 3.30 p.m. sharp, at The Menlo Park Hotel, Terryland, Headford Road, Galway, eircode H91 E98N. There will also be virtual access to the AGM - please contact the Club Secretary via email [secretary@galwayradio.com](mailto:secretary@galwayradio.com) for access details. This is a very important AGM as it is the fortieth AGM of the club, and we want to celebrate those 40 years. We are inviting both past and current members to join us for the event, and to bring any photos, letters or anything else to share and celebrate the 40 years. We will be showing our very first club minutes book which is 40 years old, as well as showing other documentation we find. Please come and join us for this special occasion. The GREC website is [www.galwayradio.com](http://www.galwayradio.com).

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## Limavady Rally

Next Sunday, the 6th of November, Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club is holding its annual rally at Limavady Football Club, Rathmore Road, Limavady, BT49 0DF. Doors open at 11am and talk-in is available on 145.575 MHz FM. Please note all of the proceeds from the rally are in aid of Air Ambulance Northern Ireland and the club looks forward to a good attendance to support this very worthy charity. The usual traders will have their wares on show along with a bring-and-buy stand. Refreshments will be available. Tickets for some excellent raffle prizes worth over £1,000 in total will also be available. This Tuesday the club has a net at 8.30pm on 145.300MHz. For more information please contact Jason, MI3UIW, the email address for this event is [bushvalleyarc@gmail.com](mailto:bushvalleyarc@gmail.com).

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## **Southgate Amateur Radio News**

Jeremy Boot G4NJH announced the passing of Richard Brunton, G4TUT. Richard died at age 77 as the result of a fall on the 21st of October. The callsign may not seem familiar to you, but for decades Richard was editor of the Southgate Amateur Radio News website which has a significant international following. Each and every day, Richard would search the world's ham radio and technology resources seeking out stories of interest and publishing them. Beyond the straight news items and specialist sections of his site, Richard encouraged non-commercial podcasts and blogs to promote ham radio opinion and stimulate debate on the essential subjects of the day. He also compiled the 'CQ Serenade' weekly programme which was broadcast throughout Europe on Shortwaveradio.de and other public-facing media. Richard himself was an intensely private man who had no close family, but he reached thousands of friends daily through his website. Amateur radio has lost a statesman and a stalwart whose dedication to amateur radio was valued and enjoyed by so many.

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## **UKEICC**

On Wednesday, the 2nd of November, the UKEICC 80m Contest runs from 20:00 to 21:00 UTC. Using SSB only on the 80m band, the exchange is a six-character locator. Using a logging program like EI5DI's SDlog is essential, helping with a quick upload within the hour.

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## **OH2A is ready for use**

Work HF from anywhere with SRAL's new remote-controlled amateur radio station. The remote station OH2A is used via an internet connection on a computer or mobile device with a standard web browser such as Firefox, Chrome or Safari. You can find more information about the remote station and instructions for obtaining personal user IDs on SRAL's website at [www.sral.fi/palvelut/etaasemat](http://www.sral.fi/palvelut/etaasemat)

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## **Orbital News**

The latest AMSAT and EME newsletters have been published. The AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletin for the last week of October is available at [amsat.org](http://amsat.org), and the latest EME Bulletin is available at the following address of the difficult to navigate, but informative website with at [www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html](http://www.nitehawk.com/rasmit/em70cm.html)

A fortnight ago, the new QO-100 station on board the research vessel Polarstern was

officially commissioned in an opening ceremony. DP0POL/mm is now permanently accessible via QO-100. Andreas, DL3LRM, operator of DP0POL/mm and Peter DB2OS at station DK0SB of AMSAT-DL and Bochum Observatory performed the initial connection. The satellite station is permanently available for general QSO's via QO-100, of course only as long as the radio amateurs on the ship have free time. The special feature of the QO-100 station on board the Polarstern is the fully automatically tracking satellite antenna under a radome, which has to withstand even the most adverse weather conditions and enables a reliable connection to the geostationary amateur radio satellite even in rough seas.

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## **The Propagation Horoscope**

Much like the weather, everybody complains about propagation, but nobody does anything about it. Until now. Scientists at the Alaskan High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program may at least help explain some of the phenomena we observe daily. Following an intense 10-day period of experiments that were concluded last Friday, HAARP researchers will be studying their results along with observations from participating amateur radio operators. Hams monitored daily transmissions that included HF ocean scatter, interactions between satellites and the ionosphere, moon bounce and an unprecedented attempt to bounce a signal off of Jupiter. There was an investigation into the air-glow phenomenon known as Strong Thermal Emission Velocity Enhancement, for short STEVE, and testing whether radio transmissions could be used to measure the interiors of near-Earth asteroids. Participating hams were able to file their reports electronically to the lab, making them eligible for QSL cards.

This weekend last year the sun awoke and started to be littered with spots, announcing the current cycle. The average daily sunspot number increased from 11 to 55, while the solar flux rose from about 80 and peaked at 110. Twelve month later the solar flux values range between 115 and 125 units, so far the sunspot number averaged above 60 for this October, fewer than expected. We see increased flare activity at the eastern edge of the Sun. The flare activity of the five visible sunspots is mostly limited to C flares. The geomagnetic field is currently disturbed from the effects of last week's CME's and a strengthening solar wind combining to push the kP index up to 5 late on Friday night. Throughout the night raspy Aurora modulated signals appeared on 160 and 80m.

Keep in mind that the local time has switched to 'winter-rime' again, therefore local time and UTC are the same for the next 6 months.

That is the news for this week. Items for inclusion in next week's radio news can be submitted by email to [newsteam@irts.ie](mailto:newsteam@irts.ie) for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. The deadline is Friday noon.

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